

June 3, 2019

Seattle Mayor's Office, and
Seattle City Council
City Hall Building

Dear City Leaders,

As stakeholders from the Pike Place Market and its neighboring communities, **we're writing to support the temporary extension of the ordinance to expand the boundaries of the Pike Place Market Historic District.** Our family of downtown communities has yet to take a collective position on any *final* adjustment to the boundaries of the District, yet we jointly and wholeheartedly believe that a comprehensive, collaborative, and locally-driven conversation ought to take place. We believe an extension is needed, so as to allow us the necessary time to engage our respective communities in this urgent discussion of the public domain.*

Together with additional community groups, grassroots leaders, and local businesses, we intend to convene such a conversation regarding the proposed adjustment to the boundaries of the District. We welcome the City's continued participation, yet **we find ourselves cognizant of a deep and abiding interest within our respective constituencies to work toward a comprehensive, collaborative, and locally-driven solution;** one which reviews all the opportunities and challenges inherent in this proposal.

For over ten months many of us have organized and galvanized, while also waiting patiently for a consultant-led study that only in recent days appears to be taking shape. It is in this spirit that we intend to convene, as we each share in common a fundamental belief that **foremost of all our strengths are the people themselves whom we serve and represent.** Our communities stand ready to discuss these issues, and we have thus begun a review of both the challenges that face us, and of specific opportunities to move forward. We believe the City can and must play a central role, and we invite you to join us as we engage in this grassroots community conversation.

We look around and we witness a Seattle that seems at a critical crossroads – as a city we are wrestling with our self-identity, our values, and even our cultural soul. Yet together, the Market and its neighbors hold a deep and residual well of cultural water that feeds our entire City. If given the time, we believe we can identify and refine real-world strategies for preserving and expanding the cultural capital of Seattle's internationally-recognized heart. **We hope to inspire the rest of the city to forge a forward path in which we as a whole Seattle family need not leave any of our family members behind.**

Thank you for your time, and thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of the people of our shared communities. We look forward to hearing from you, and are grateful for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Market
Pike Place Market Foundation
Friends of the Showbox
Rise Up Belltown

Fischer Studio Building HOA
Historic Seattle
Friends of Historic Belltown

**Some of our number have also individually sent comments to the City, consistent with a desire for more time.*